

From: michelle church <  
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 7:44 PM  
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB16

I am writing in support of HB16. Expanding the availability of local agriculture is paramount to building this important under utilized economic sector. There is great demand for the right to purchase milk products. Please provide the ability for producers and consumers to do business together.

Thank you.

Michelle Church  
Palmer AK 99645

From: Fawn Sourdough Girls <  
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 10:27 AM  
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB 16

Dear Legislators,

I live in Fairbanks and my family of 6 (ages 8-46) have been in a cow herd share for 5 years. We are a part of Golden Heart Dairy out of Delta Junction. We have enjoyed our raw milk for 5 years with no adverse health issues. We actually are healthier and less sick than a lot of families who do not do a herd share. Our kids and us have not been to a doctor for cold/flu in 5 years. We believe we are healthier and more productive in school and work because of drinking raw milk. Please support the dairy industry here in Alaska.

Thanks!

Fawn Dixon

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Casey Sanford  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2019 11:02 PM  
**To:** House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** In support of HB16

Representative Tarr,

My name is Mary Sanford and I support the passing of HB16 which would allow the distribution of raw milk products through herd share agreements.

I am a stay-at-home mother to four children ages: three months, as well as four, seven, and ten years old. I live in Willow, Alaska.

Passing HB16 would be extremely valuable in order for my family to pursue raw milk and raw milk products and options locally. I have many like minded friends and extended family who also value local and pure nutritional opportunities for their families' health.

In my personal experience, when my first son was born 10 years ago, he was what they call "failure to thrive".

My slow capability to provide him with nourishing breastfeeding the first 6 months, led us to supplement with raw goat milk, as well as powdered goat milk bought from an out-of-state company. Goat milk is very similar to the quality of human breastmilk and having a goat share of raw milk available was quite literally life-saving for my son.

Besides Alaskan seafood, the health benefits of local raw milk products are even more valuable to Alaskans as we have such a limited availability of nutrient-dense local whole foods.

In the future, my family and all Alaskans would benefit substantially in health by having options for local raw milk products.

Please pass HB16 for the health of all Alaskans.

Thank you very much,

Mary Sanford  
Willow, Alaska

From: Emily Tiller <  
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:49 PM  
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Hb 16 - herd shares

To whom it may concern,  
Please pass Hb16 as it is pivotal in increasing local food options, growth, and support. Allowing other foods to be included in the herd share such as cheese, allows people that are unable to have cows/goats due to covenants or physical restrictions, to benefit from and support local farmers. This is good for Alaska's economy and food security. Supporting local food also increases our national security as Alaska's are less dependent on imports in the event of an emergency.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Emily Gibson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Kristin Hock  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2019 11:55 AM  
**To:** House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 16

Hello,

My name is Kristin Hock. I am a Juneau resident and live at: , Juneau 99801. I want to go on record as being in support House Bill 16, legislation that would allow the distribution of raw milk products through herdshare agreements. The health benefits of raw milk would be beneficial to the citizens of Alaska.

Kristin Hock

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Senate Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Support HB 16  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:25:52 AM

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The current pandemic exposes the urgent need to develop local agriculture. We need to know where our food comes from and secure direct lines between local producers and consumers. The raw food products are also essential for families who have allergies to pasteurized products or cannot digest them in the common processed form. It seems like a simple, reasonable request that we can purchase the raw products from local farmers that are so important to our families' health and cannot be duplicated in mass distribution supply chains.

Jacalyn Watson  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. John Coghill](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Joshua Revak](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Senate Resources](#)  
**Subject:** HB 16 Support  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 10:50:36 AM

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Hello Resource Committee Members,

Thank you for the important work you do! I am writing in support of HB16 which would allow access to raw milk products.

For reasons that include benefits to my personal health, food security, and our local economy I would urge you to realize the incredible potential that passage of this bill would allow.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or for additional information.

Kindly,  
Margi Clifford  
Anchorage, AK  
[REDACTED]

**From:**  
**To:** [Senate Resources](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)  
**Subject:** FW: In support of HB 16 (aka ("Free the Cheese!"))  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 12:02:40 AM

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Honorable members of the Senate Resources Committee:

Thank you in advance for devoting a few minutes of your time in the Resources Committee meeting on Friday, March 20 to consider HB 16, which would expand the boundaries of herd share to include value-added products. In case you're not familiar with the term, herd share (also known as farm share, cow share, goat share, etc.), is a program where people buy shares of a milking animal or dairy herd. The share owner signs an agreement that includes contact info for both parties, pays the farmer a monthly boarding fee to help cover the cost of the animals' care and feeding, and thus is entitled to a share of the milk produced by the herd. Alaska is one of eight states where raw milk may be obtained through herd share, as compared to ten states where retail sales are legal, and 15 states that allow farm-to-consumer sales. Alaska's current regulation is written to limit herd share to fluid milk only, but HB 16 adds the words "and raw milk *products*", which could include yogurt, kefir, cheese, ice cream, etc.

With the passage of HB 16, share owners would benefit by having a variety of dairy options available besides fluid milk, and the opportunity to obtain locally-made artisan products that are not available in stores. There are also those who cannot digest store-bought milk in any form, but do well with raw milk products. Although some share owners have the time and inspiration to create their own dairy delicacies using their herd share milk, the majority would prefer to have them available ready-made.

HB 16 would benefit dairy producers by adding value -- a gallon of milk transformed into chevre could buy two bales of hay instead of one. Milk production always follows a seasonal curve, meaning a surplus in the summer, and a shortage in the winter. The perfect way to use excess summer milk is making cheese, which freezes beautifully and could be put away for winter usage. It would be a boon to the producer to have specialty products available for herd share owners during the winter when milk production is down, as goats require the same amount of hay whether they're lactating or dry.

It's a priority matter with the DEC to ensure an open line of communication between dairy producers and consumers, as specified in the terms of Alaska's herd share regulations. HB 16 would not impact that in any way, as these value-added products would only be made available to those who are members of the herd share program with a signed agreement on file.

There is really no down-side with HB 16. Several other states already have similar programs in place, such as allowing farm stands selling raw dairy products on the farmer's property in several New England states. The layer of safety contained in the herd share model would allow for prompt and straightforward communication if either party had a concern about a product, the same as in its present form.

Please consider and pass HB 16 for the benefit of local dairy lovers, producers and consumers alike.



Thank you for your time.

Cheers,

*Suzy*

Cottonwood Creek Farm

Suzy Crosby & Mike Pendergrast

home (eves. & wkends.)

Suzy cell

Mike cell

Email:

<http://www.localharvest.org/cottonwood-creek-farm-M52985>

<https://www.facebook.com/CottonwoodCreekFarmAK>